

Transportation & Intermodal Committee Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2012

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes - The January 18, 2012 meeting minutes were approved. There was some discussion on whether and how commissioners should be involved in talking with constituents about applications being denied. Mark Imhoff indicated that a column has been added to provide a brief reason as to why an application was not accepted. It was agreed this would be very helpful.
2. State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan – Mark Imhoff gave a presentation on the status of the Plan. Highlights included:
 - Plan was released for review and comment on January 30, 2012
 - Comment period was extended to March 2, 2012
 - Received about 200 comments – many were the same
 - Draft was revised accordingly to address comments
 - Next steps:
 - Recommendation of T&I Committee for TC to approve Plan
 - TC approval of Plan
 - Submit Plan to FRA
 - Conduct AGS and ICS studies and develop a state Transit Plan
 - The Plan becomes a basis for the rail component of the statewide L RTP
 - Work through transit and rail policies with TRAC and the T&I committee
3. Transit Grant Program – Tom Mauser gave a presentation on the various FTA grant programs that CDOT administers within Colorado. The FTA grant programs cover a variety of capital and operating expenses for small urbanized and rural areas. In addition to the FTA programs, DTR also administers the state FASTER Transit grant program.
4. TRAC Update – Ann Rajewski gave a brief update on the activities of TRAC. TRAC has been very involved in the development and review of the State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan. The TRAC is now focusing on bringing together this Plan and the upcoming studies to begin thinking about a framework for transit policy considerations; as they develop, these policy concepts will be brought to the T&I Committee for discussion. Commissioner Reiff mentioned that there has been some conversation on whether the policy discussion is with the T&I Committee or the Commission.
5. Mark Imhoff asked if there was anything that the T&I Committee would like to be informed about over the next few months. Any ideas will be emailed.
6. Commissioner Gilliland asked if there was anything going on at the national level in regards to rail that we can look at to see how Colorado fits in. Mark said that the State Rail Plans will be integrated into a National Plan. While there is support for a rail program at the national level, there is not funding. CDOT is exploring with FRA how the rail portion of I-25 improvements can be ready and in the pipeline for funding. Commissioner Gilliland said that we do that for highway and it would be good to have a similar process for transit and rail projects to be ready if and when funding is available.